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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Opportunity for Public Comment on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for a Waste Discharge Regulatory Program for Dairy Manure Digester and Co-Digester Facilities within the Central Valley Region (Region 5) (SCH #2010031085)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), as the lead agency, has released a draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a waste discharge regulatory program for dairy manure digester and co-digester facilities within the Central Valley Region (Region 5). The 45-day public review and comment period for the draft EIR is from July 8, 2010 until August 23, 2010. During the review period, the Central Valley Water Board will hold two public meetings to receive comments on the draft EIR.

BACKGROUND

The Program EIR assesses the environmental impacts associated with the Central Valley Water Board's waste discharge regulatory program ("the project") for dairy digester and co-digester (i.e., that use manure plus other organic feedstocks) facilities in Region 5. The Program EIR provides a programmatic analysis of the environmental impacts of the development of dairy manure digester and co-digester facilities and is intended to provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the Central Valley Water Board's waste discharge regulatory program for these facilities. Additionally, other State and local permitting agencies may tier off the Program EIR to satisfy CEQA requirements for other permits related to dairy manure digester and co-digester projects.

The proposed Central Valley Water Board waste discharge regulatory program will involve the adoption of one or more Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) General Orders to regulate the discharge to land of liquid and solid digestate generated from dairy manure digesters and dairy manure co-digester facilities located at individual dairies or at centralized facilities on or off-site of dairies within Region 5. Under the program, the Central Valley Water Board may also adopt Individual WDRs when the General Orders would not be applicable, as well as Conditional Waivers of WDRs when a waste discharge is found to have such low threat to water quality that a waiver of WDRs is not against the public interest pursuant to California Water Code §13269.

Significant Environmental Effects

The draft EIR evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of dairy digester and co-digester facilities, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures, which, if adopted by the Central Valley Water Board or other responsible agencies, could avoid or minimize these impacts. Significant unavoidable impacts are identified for water quality and criteria air pollutants.

California Environmental Protection Agency

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft Program EIR will be available for public review at the Rancho Cordova, Fresno, and Redding offices of the Central Valley Water Board during the review period:

Central Valley Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114
Phone: (916) 464-3291

Central Valley Water Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2007
Phone: (559) 445-5116

Central Valley Water Board
415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002
Phone: (530) 224-4845

Electronic copies of the draft Program EIR can be downloaded in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press_room/announcements

Copies may also be obtained by contacting Paul Miller of ESA, by phone at (916) 564-4500 or by e-mail (PMiller@esassoc.com); there will be a reasonable fee charged for a hardcopy or CD version of the draft Program EIR. Documents referenced in the draft EIR can be reviewed by appointment at the offices of ESA: 2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 200; Sacramento, CA 95816.

PUBLIC MEETING AND SCHEDULE

Two public meetings will be held to provide participants with an opportunity to comment on the draft Program EIR.

Date:	Tuesday August 3, 2010	Wednesday August 4, 2010
Time:	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Address:	Central Valley Water Board 1685 E Street Fresno, CA 93706	Central Valley Water Board 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Directions and location information to the Fresno and Rancho Cordova offices can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's website (next page):

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/about_us/contact_us/

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Stephen Klein at (559) 445-5558 at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

Submission of Comments

The Central Valley Water Board will accept both written and oral comments regarding the adequacy of the draft Program EIR. Written comments should be submitted to Stephen Klein no later than **5:00 PM on August 23, 2010** (contact information below). Comments received after that date may not be used in staff's analysis and recommendation. Please indicate the project you are commenting upon in the subject line, "**Comment Letter – Dairy Digester and Co-Digester draft Program EIR.**" Please send your written comments regarding the draft Program EIR to:

Central Valley Water Board
Attn: Stephen Klein, Project Manager
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2007

CONTACT INFORMATION

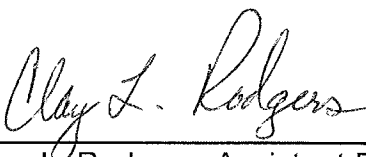
Additional information concerning the public review schedule for the draft Program EIR, or changes to the schedule, and information on the public meetings can be obtained by visiting the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press_room/announcements

or by contacting Stephen Klein, by phone at (559) 445-5558 or by e-mail (sklein@waterboards.ca.gov). If you wish to receive ongoing information regarding the development of a dairy manure digester and co-digester waste discharge regulatory program, you may subscribe to the "Dairy Program" mailing list through our website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml

or call Stephen Klein and request to be added to the mailing list. Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



Clay L. Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer
8 July 2010